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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Research Service
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WHITE-FRINGED BEETLE CONTROL

NATURE OF THE PEST

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The adult beetles, all of which are females, are about one-half inch long, dark gray in color, with two lighter colored longitudinal stripes. Each adult is capable of laying 600 to 700 eggs. The newly hatched larvae immediately enter the soil where they feed on the roots of plants.

CROPS AFFECTED

The larvae are voracious feeders and attack some 300 species of plants, including such important crops as cotton, corn, tobacco, peanuts, sugarcane, sweetpotatoes, Irish potatoes, clover, numerous vegetables and ornamentals.

DAMAGE AND ESTIMATED LOSSES

Heavy damage to total destruction of crops occurs in untreated infested fields. Farmers may find it necessary to plant crops two or three times before obtaining a stand. Some 425,000 acres are now known to be infested with white-fringed beetles in eight Southeastern States. The beetle is capable of infesting the entire southern half of the United States, in which event the crop losses and costs of control measures would be tremendous.

CONTROL PROGRAM

The white-fringed beetle control program is designed (1) to prevent the spread of the beetle to uninfested areas and (2) to suppress population build-up. Control procedures provide for the safe movement of farm and nursery products.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

This program is authorized by the Plant Quarantine Act of 1912, as amended (7 U.S.C. 151-167) and the Organic Act of 1944, as amended (7 U.S.C. 147a).

July 7, 1954



